

ROBERT MUELLER and
FRANZ-JOSEF VOGELSANG
Serial No.: 10/527,467

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested in view of the amendment of independent claims 1 and 9 to include the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 12. Independent claim 14 was amended to include the indicated allowable subject matter of claims 12 and 13.

The dependent claims were amended for consistency with the amendments to the independent claims and to correct a lack of antecedent basis in claims 5 and 6. More particularly dependent claims 5 and 6 were amended to correct the lack of antecedent basis for "the conveying fluid" and "the gap fluid".

Claims 1-6, 9-11 and 14 were rejected as being anticipated by Houston U.S. Patent 5,529,758 on the grounds the meaning of the terms, "labyrinth seal" is not limited. However, it was recognized that claim 12 structurally defined the Applicants' invention over Houston '758.

Consistent with this determination of allowability independent claims 1, 9 and 14 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 12 as previously discussed.

It is believed the foregoing amendments place all the claims

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in a condition for allowance which actions is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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